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Response to Restriction Requirement mailed 12-14-04

IN THE PRESENT CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for zooming a stereoscopic image comprising:  
determining a parallax value for a region of the image;  
selecting a zoom area having a boundary intersecting the region; and  
shifting the zoom area by the parallax value or a function of the parallax value.
2. (Original) A method for zooming a stereoscopic image comprising:  
determining a plurality of parallax values for corresponding regions of the image;  
selecting a zoom area having a boundary intersecting at least a portion of the regions;  
comparing the parallax values for the intersected regions to determine a shift parallax value; and  
shifting the zoom area by the shift parallax value or a function of the shift parallax value.
3. (Original) The method as in claim 2, wherein the shift parallax value is the minimum parallax value of the intersected regions.

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4. (Withdrawn) A method for zooming a stereoscopic image comprising:  
dividing the image into a plurality of regions;  
defining a value for each region;  
selecting a zoom area having a boundary intersecting at least one of the regions;  
comparing the values for the intersected regions to determine a preferred value  
based on predetermined criteria; and  
shifting the zoom area by the preferred value or a function of the preferred value.
5. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 4, wherein the predetermined criteria  
comprises the minimum value of the intersected values.
6. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 4, wherein shifting of the zoom area is by a  
function of the value, the function comprising division of the value by two.
7. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 6, wherein the function further comprises  
addition of an offset, the offset selected from the group consisting of zero to place the  
stereoscopic window right at the closest object when zoomed, a negative value to push  
the closest object slightly behind the stereo window when zoomed, and a positive value  
to pull the closest object slightly out of the window when zoomed.
8. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 4, wherein the value comprises the  
minimum parallax value for the corresponding region divided by two.

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9. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 8, wherein the value further comprises an offset, the offset selected from the group consisting of zero to place the stereoscopic window right at the closest object when zoomed, a negative value to push the closest object slightly behind the stereo window when zoomed, and a positive value to pull the closest object slightly out of the window when zoomed.

10. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 4, wherein at least one of the values comprises the minimum parallax value for the corresponding region.

11. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for zooming a stereoscopic image, the computer readable program code means in the article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for dividing the image into a plurality of regions;

computer readable program code means for defining a value for each region;

computer readable program code means for selecting a zoom area having a boundary intersecting at least one of the regions;

computer readable program code means for comparing the values for the intersected regions to determine a preferred value based on predetermined criteria; and

computer readable program code means for shifting the zoom area by the preferred value or a function of the preferred value.

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12. (Withdrawn) A computer program product for use with a graphics display device, the computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for zooming a stereoscopic image, the computer readable program code means in the article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for dividing the image into a plurality of regions;

computer readable program code means for defining a value for each region;

computer readable program code means for selecting a zoom area having a boundary intersecting at least one of the regions;

computer readable program code means for comparing the values for the intersected regions to determine a preferred value based on predetermined criteria; and

computer readable program code means for shifting the zoom area by the preferred value or a function of the preferred value.

13. (Withdrawn) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for zooming a stereoscopic image, the method steps comprising:

dividing the image into a plurality of regions;

defining a value for each region;

selecting a zoom area having a boundary intersecting at least one of the regions;

comparing the values for the intersected regions to determine a preferred value based on predetermined criteria;

shifting the zoom area by the preferred value or a function of the preferred value.

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14. (Withdrawn) A method for zooming a stereoscopic image comprising:  
using an array of regions that divide the stereoscopic image into sections and  
defining a value for each region.
15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein values associated with each  
region indicate a shift value that is used to adjust the relationship of the right and left  
image during a zooming operation.
16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein said sections and values are  
automatically determined from a 3D object model.
17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein said sections and values are  
determined from a user input of depth values in said regions and interpolating values in  
between said regions.
18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein said sections and values are  
determined using parallax adjustments for successive zooming operations dependent  
on a current zoom level.
19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising using said sections and  
values with multiple levels of granularity for higher definition of sections and values in  
select areas of said image.